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General Assembly

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A/C.5/51/L.89
12 September 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 140 (a)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

Support account for peacekeeping operations

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations

The General Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 18 of its resolution 51/239 of 17 June 1997,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations: Lessons Learned Unit[1] and the related statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the views expressed by Member States in the Fifth Committee,[2]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations: Lessons Learned Unit;[1]

2. Also takes note of the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the rates of vacancy of support account posts, which were 14.2 per cent for posts in the Professional category and above and 5.1 per cent for posts in the General Service category as at 31 August 1997;

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[1] A/51/965.

[2] See A/C.5/51/SR.73.

3. Notes the usefulness of the lessons learned capacity;

4. Decides to redeploy, on a temporary basis, for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1998, three posts, namely, one P-4, one P-2/1 and one General Service post, funded from the support account for peacekeeping operations, to carry out the functions described in the report of the Secretary-General,[1] and also decides to revert to this issue for its consideration in future budget proposals.

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REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on gratis personnel[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Expressing serious concern at the impact on the geographical balance in some parts of the Secretariat of the presence of gratis personnel, in particular in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations,

Recognizing that the use of gratis personnel, other than those performing supplementary activities, should be on an exceptional and temporary basis and for specialized functions only,

1. Emphasizes that gratis personnel are not a substitute for staff to be recruited against authorized posts for the implementation of mandated programmes and activities;

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[1] A/51/688 and Corr.1 and Add.1-3.

[2] A/51/813.

2. Reaffirms that the programme of work and mandates approved by Member States must be financed in the manner determined by the General Assembly, based upon proposals of the Secretary-General;

3. Decides that gratis personnel should not be sought for financial reasons;

4. Decides also that the Secretary-General can accept type II gratis personnel[1] only in the following circumstances:

(a) After the approval of a budget, to provide expertise not available within the Organization for very specialized functions, as identified by the Secretary-General, and for a limited and specified period of time;

(b) To provide temporary and urgent assistance in the case of new and/or expanded mandates of the Organization, pending a decision by the General Assembly on the level of resources required to implement those mandates;

5. Decides further, in this regard, that the relevant budget resolutions and procedures relating to unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures, peacekeeping operations and tribunals will govern the acceptance of the gratis personnel referred to in paragraph 4 of the present resolution;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to report on a quarterly basis to the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, on the acceptance of the gratis personnel referred to in paragraph 4, for appropriate action, with a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of the present resolution;

7. Emphasizes that the relevant General Assembly resolutions and financial regulations and rules should be fully respected when accepting gratis personnel in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution;

8. Emphasizes also that it is necessary that fully substantiated and comprehensive proposals on the total requirements from all sources of funding be presented so as to enable the General Assembly to decide on the level of resources required to implement fully all mandated programmes and activities, and requests the Secretary-General to present all future budgets and budget outlines in that manner, in accordance with Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to phase out expeditiously type II gratis personnel who fall outside the scope of paragraph 4 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

10. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-second session, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for appropriate action, on the methodology to be applied to and the

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[1] See A/51/688 and Corr.1, paras. 24-40.

level of administrative support costs and, in the interim, to maintain the status quo in this regard;

11. Further requests the Secretary-General to revise the draft guidelines set out in his reports on gratis personnel in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution and taking into account the following principles, and to submit them to the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for its approval at its fifty-second session:

(a) Gratis personnel should be subject to the criteria laid down in Article 100 and paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) In the performance of their duties, gratis personnel should have the same obligations and responsibilities as staff members;

(c) Gratis personnel should carry out their functions in accordance with all applicable regulations, rules and procedures of the Organization;

(d) The selection process for gratis personnel should be transparent and conducted on as wide a geographical basis as possible, and, if there is a need for gratis personnel as provided for in the present resolution, all Member States should be informed;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to report annually on the use of gratis personnel, indicating, inter alia, their nationality, and summarizing the duration of their service and the functions performed;

13. Also requests the Secretary-General, in the context of the consideration by the General Assembly of the question of gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities to report on the impact of the implementation of paragraphs 4 (b) and 9 of the present resolution and to submit proposals in this regard to the Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for appropriate action;

14. Decides to consider the question at its fifty-second session.